GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4173
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2017
Ban on Polluting Fuels
Pala Shri Vincent H

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government towards banning polluting fuels like furnace oil and pet coke in the country;
(b) whether furnace oil is still being sold by oil companies and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c) whether according to a study conducted by SRM University (Tamil Nadu) there is a high concentration of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in air and soil samples in many urban areas;
(d) if so, the impact of the PCBs on human health; and
(e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) Government lays down norms pertaining to various fuels from time to time. In order to specifically address the issue of pollution from furnace oil and pet coke, discussions on various measures including restriction on the use of these fuels in Delhi and National Capital Region in phased manner have taken place.

(b) Furnace oil is being sold by oil companies and it can be safely used in industries which have adequate pollution control measures.

(c) According to study conducted by SRM University (Tamil Nadu) and others, occurrences of PCBs have been observed in soil and air of urban areas in various concentrations.

(d) Possible effect of PCBs on human health include neurologic disorders, cancer, liver toxicity, immunosuppression, endocrine disruption such as low thyroid, decreased reproductive ability etc.

(e) In order to ensure effective and holistic management of PCB, it is being addressed through various environmental regulations. It is listed in Schedule II of Hazardous and Other Waste (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 which provide concentration limits of constituents including that of PCB. Further, this Ministry has notified the 'Regulation of Polychlorinated Biphenyls Order, 2016 vide S.O. 1327 (E) dated 06.04.2016. In accordance with the Order, the manufacture and import of PCBs and PCBs containing equipment in the country is banned from the date of issue of the Order.
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